AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 8.   (canceled).

9.   (currently amended): A printing method for printing a print image on a medium

comprising:

a step of storing, in a memory area, image data that has been generated by reading an

image in an original;

a step of performing an area determination for determining which area, in the original, is

an area in which a print image exists, together with performing printing on a first sheet, based on

the image data that has been generated by reading the image in the original;

a step of determining whether or not the whole image data corresponding to the area that

has been determined said print image can be stored, in terms of size, in said memory area based

on a result of said area determination; and

if it is determined that the whole image data can be stored in terms of size,

storing data that has been re-read for the image in the original, which is limited to

the area only, having been subjected to said area determination in said memory area

based on the result of said area determination, and

performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from a second sheet based

on the image data in said memory area.

if it is determined that the whole image data cannot be stored in terms of size,

performing a reading operation of the original, every time printing is performed,

and

performing printing up to the preset number of sheets from the second sheet, using image data from the reading operation~~based on the image data in said memory area~~.

10.   (currently amended): A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

a scan width for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is changed, so as to read only the area, ~~based on the result of said area determination~~ upon re-reading the image in said original ~~that has been subjected to said area determination~~.

11.   (currently amended): A printing method according to claim 9, wherein:

a scan width for which an image-reading section for reading the image in said original is moved is not changed upon re-reading the image in said original ~~that has been subjected to said area determination~~; and

image data of the area ~~corresponding to said print image~~ is extracted from the data that has been re-read ~~for the original having been subjected to said area determination~~ and is stored in said memory area.

12 - 15.   (canceled).